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To Whom It May Concern:

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to discuss opportunities at the Woodrow Wilson Center with my PhD Advisor, Prof. Francis Fukuyama, who highly recommended me to apply for a fellowship with the Center.

I am currently finishing my PhD Dissertation on Israeli-Iranian relations at Johns Hopkins University SAIS. My dissertation deals with the driving forces behind the foreign policies of Iran and Israel from the 1960s till today. I have conducted extensive research on this topic, **including more than 110 interviews with senior Israeli, American and Iranian officials**. My research has dealt extensively with the nuclear stand-off with Iran, where my extensive access to both Iranian and Israeli decision makers proved invaluable.

I believe that my research on Israeli-Iranian relations is of crucial importance to US foreign policy. Their troubled relationship is often times the 800-pound gorilla in the room; no one denies its impact on stability and security in the Middle East, yet few grant it the attention it deserves.

Today, their geo-strategic rivalry constitutes one of the key underlying forces affecting developments in the Middle East. The Israeli-Iranian nuclear zero-sum game has – and will continue to have – a profound impact on the US's efforts to bring democracy and stability to the Middle East.

Through my research, I have identified the root causes of this rivalry and how their interests can be reconciled through an inclusive collective security agreement. It is essential that these findings are made available to the foreign policy circles in Washington before the Israeli-Iranian rivalry goes nuclear.

The project I propose is to turn my dissertation into a book that can be made readily available to both the public and decision makers in the US. I am at an advanced stage of negotiations with Random House and Public Affairs for a book deal.

I believe that my background in policy making makes me particularly suitable for this project. I have served as a Foreign Policy Advisor to Congressman Bob Ney (R-OH) on a part-time basis since 2001. My work on Capitol Hill has primarily been focused on US-Iran relations and nuclear non-proliferation.

I have held a position with the Swedish Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, where I served in the Third Committee of the General Assembly and in the Security Council. In the Security Council, I was involved in the handling of the conflicts in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Iraq.

It is my strong conviction that my research on Israeli-Iranian relations is of pivotal importance to the establishment of peace in the region and correspondingly, that my proposed project is critical to the advancement of the Woodrow Wilson Center's mandate by uniting the world of ideas to the world of policy by linking scholarship to issues of concern to officials in Washington.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Trita Parsi